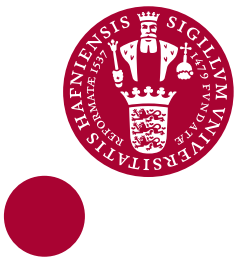

Survey on the use of pesticides and biocontrol agents in soft fruits

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biological control which uses releases of sterile mass-reared insects to suppress wild populations of the same species. Desired outcomes from SIT include a reduction in the use of toxic pesticides, improved production, quality and marketability of produce where only the target pest species is affected. To date a wide range of insect pests has been targeted, successfully, by SIT in diverse regions of the world but SIT is most effective when used as a component of AW-IPM programmes. SIT is recognised as a component of internationally accepted systems approaches to pest management. For example the FAO / International Plant Protection Convention's International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) numbers 3, 9, 18 and 26 have provision for the transport or deployment of sterile insects for SIT purposes. In this paper we will discuss the requirements for a thorough understanding of the biology and behaviour of the target pest and its interaction with the geography, climate and host flora of an area under pest management and the means by which SIT can be an essential component to AW-IPM.

Pests, Sterile insect technique, Area-wide, Integrated pest management

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Survey on the use of pesticides and biocontrol agents in soft fruits

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The use of plant protection products and biocontrol agents in soft fruit production has always been an important subject for the IOBC/WPRS Working Group Integrated Plant Protection in Orchards Subgroup Soft Fruits. The usage of pesticides and biological control methods varies considerably between countries and it is very difficult to get a good overview on the range of products that are applied or in development in soft fruits. In order to share and facilitate the flow of information, the Working Group Soft Fruit initiated a survey in 2007 on the usage and availability of pesticides and biocontrol agents in the different European countries. First we